

SIERRA/LINEBERRY DRIVE PARK MASTER PLAN

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Citizen Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting #1

October 29, 2013

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Carolina Pines Community Center

2305 Lake Wheeler Road

Raleigh, NC 27603

Meeting Purpose:

The purpose of the first CPC meeting is to introduce the City of Raleigh's consensus building process to the Citizen Planning Committee (CPC) members, to clarify their role in the park master plan process, to examine the needs of the community, and begin to develop the vision for the park, preparing for the upcoming Public Visioning Workshop, 11/19, Carolina Pines Community Center.

Attendees:

CPC Members: Mr. Brian Ayres, Ms. Lisa Barr, Ms. Barbara Benny, Dr. Mohamed Bourham, Ms. Martha Crowley, Mr. Jason Hibbets, Mr. Reid Huntley, Mr. Keith Lukowski, Ms. Mary Belle Pate, Ms. Shawna Schnorr, Ms. Amy Simes, Mr. Johnny Tillett, Ms. Gracey Vaughn, Ms. Lori Winkelstein

Absent: Colin Lowry

City of Raleigh (COR): Ms. Emily Ander, Mr. Ivan Dickey, Mr. Mathew Keough, Ms. Tonya McNeil, Ms. Melissa Salter, Mr. David Shouse

Planning Communities (PC): Ms. Kara Peach, Ms. Ann Steedly

Surface678: Mr. Charles Bradley, Mr. Eric Davis, Mr. Jeff Israel

Welcome and Introductions:

COR staff briefly introduced the project, meeting facility, and the City's goal behind the process. It was reinforced that the process is citizen-driven. The city is utilizing a third-party consultants for design expertise and facilitators of an open planning process.

Project Overview:

- *System Integration Plan* – Presented by Melissa Salter (COR)

The city provided an overview of this System Integration Plan conducted in 2013, focusing on the site review effort to date. The plan confirms that the 2.42 acre vacant site is appropriate for development as a neighborhood park. Historic photos were shown, leading to a description of the current status of the parcel purchased by the City in 2009. An existing 50-foot easement (overhead electric lines) was specifically identified as the area with the most diverse and rich vegetation. Discussing interim management guidelines, Ms. Slater requested to have seed collection done in the easement area, prior to site construction.

SIERRA/LINEBERRY DRIVE PARK MASTER PLAN

- Park Planning – Presented by Eric Davis (Surface678)

Mr. Davis explained planning process, sharing the overall schedule for this project. He encouraged group discussion and took questions.

CPC Question: When does the site get developed?

Answer: Currently, the park is in the planning process. It is up to the City Council to decide when the site will be developed. The CPC is encouraged to stay involved in the development phase after City Council plan approval. Eric noted that there is no current funding for the implementation of the park, only funding to develop the master plan; confirmed by David Shouse (COR).

CPC Question: Do we have representatives from Orchard Point (adjacent apartment complex)?

Answer: Not direct representation on the CPC. Planning Communities worked to engage representatives via fliers and contact with the property managers. (Later in the evening, a CPC member volunteered to drop off flyers and speak with residents in the vicinity of the park.)

CPC Question: How was the CPC selected?

Answer: Initial member recommendations came from stakeholders, community leaders, and City of Raleigh staff; volunteers were also solicited through the community survey process. The CPC was officially recommended by the Parks Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board and appointed by the City of Raleigh City Council.

Introduction to Consensus Building Process and Review of Draft CPC Charter

- Discussion on consensus building – Lead by Kara Peach (PC)

The process will work towards group consensus, representing community interests. Ms. Peach presented the City of Raleigh's adopted consensus process, using a "5-point scale" in future deliberations.

- Review of draft charter by CPC – Lead by Kara Peach (PC)

Review of CPC role, purpose and responsibility as lead for park planning on this site. Examples were given on the process of brainstorming, collecting and synthesizing information in a public process.

CPC Question: What is meant by an "alternate" member?

Answer: An alternate member is someone chosen by a CPC member to attend the process in case of absence and, in general, to help a member communicate interests between the CPC and the community. Alternates do not vote.

CPC Question: Is it possible to add representation to CPC?

Discussion: The group was not comfortable representing the wider community at this time. A CPC member addressed inadequacy of African American representation. One CPC member was concerned about inadequacy economic representation. Another CPC member raised the inadequacy of youth representation. In response to this concern, Gracey Vaughn acknowledged her age and recent college experience, saying she could work to ensure representation of that area demographic.

Answer: There is a need to look into solutions to fill gaps in racial, economic and age group representation on the CPC *prior to advancing on the charter and Park vision*. The City will look into

SIERRA/LINEBERRY DRIVE PARK MASTER PLAN

the process of nomination additional members. Mr. Shouse (COR) acknowledged the need to add additional CPC members but cautioned the CPC to be conscious of the size of the existing group. Mr. Shouse went on to say that targeted involvement efforts, such as the driving wide participation to the workshops, may yield the most valuable input.

Continued Discussion: CPC acknowledged need for wider outreach for the workshops in order to have maximum benefit and representation of all area demographics. Outreach Strategies suggested:

- Postcards to surrounding residents
Mr. Keough (COR) supports this strategy but could not provide postcards in time for the upcoming Nov. 19th workshop. Instead, additional signs will be installed throughout the surrounding area.
- Leverage school-age youth participation with posters and/or curriculum
Curriculum strategies need to be further examined, hopefully through the CPC representative from Dillard Drive Middle School.
- Wolfline (NCSU Bus System) and private shuttle advertisements
- Talking to people at neighborhood bus stops
- Posters/Flyers at bus stops

Exercise 1: Brainstorming Community Needs

This exercise began with an abbreviated summary of the community survey results by Kara Peach (PC). The CPC was then lead through an activity to address, “What are the social, recreational and other values and needs of the community that should shape the development of the park?”

Discussion: CPC members brainstormed ideas individually then turned to a partner to discuss and decide on 4 -5 ideas. Small groups presented their ideas which were then posted on the wall. The larger CPC group then went through a facilitated exercise to group ‘like’ ideas together. These groups were assigned a symbol. After all items were grouped, individuals had the opportunity to bring up any other ideas they felt were missing. Then as a group, the CPC discussed the theme of each category. The key words for each group of ideas is as follows:

- “Square”: Connectivity, Gathering, Social, Cohesion
- “+”: Fun
- “O”: Inclusive
- “=”: Ownership, Pride, Responsibility
- “Diamond”: Environmental, Stewardship
- “Star”: Wellbeing, Multiple Purpose, Multifunctional
- “Triangle”: Accessibility for All (Sight impaired, Strollers, Language

Next Steps/Closing Remarks

Meeting time was discussed, with one member suggesting an earlier start and finish for these meetings. Per request, a poll will be circulated in December or early January to determine the next meeting date and time.

SIERRA/LINEBERRY DRIVE PARK MASTER PLAN

Pinterest was suggested by the project team as one method the CPC can use to collect and share suggestions for the park. CPC members were responsive to this and the project team will follow up on this item.

CPC members were encouraged to speak with neighbors and community members to find people who might be interested in joining the CPC and defer them to the City. The City of Raleigh staff and project team will work together to address the issue of CPC representation and report back to the CPC.

CPC members were provided flyers to promote the first public workshop and several members volunteered to canvas neighborhood, with support from the project team. Members were challenged to bring public comments to the upcoming workshop, Tuesday, November 19 at Carolina Pines Community Center at 7:00 pm.